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MID-TERM REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS MILITARY LIAISON TEAM IN CAMBODIA

1. The United Nations Military Liaison Team was established by Security Council resolution 880 (1993) of 4 November 1993, following a request by the two Co-Prime Ministers of Cambodia. Resolution 880 (1993) mandates the Military Liaison Team to "report on matters affecting security in Cambodia, to maintain liaison with the Government of Cambodia and to assist the Government in dealing with residual matters relating to the Paris Agreements". The purpose of the present report is to inform the Security Council of the Team's activities, and apprise it of the security situation prevailing in Cambodia for the period 15 November 1993 to 31 January 1994.

2. The 20-member United Nations Military Liaison Team was established in Phnom Penh on 15 November 1993 for a period of six months, following the withdrawal of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). The mandate of the Military Liaison Team will expire on 15 May 1994. The members of the Team are drawn from the following countries: Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, China, France, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Thailand and Uruguay. The Chief Military Liaison Officer is Colonel Muniruz Zaman (Bangladesh). Administrative support is provided by two international staff.

3. The Military Liaison Team has established extensive liaison with the relevant Cambodian government ministries and has kept close contact with other United Nations agencies, embassies of Governments represented in Cambodia and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

4. During the reporting period, hostilities have continued between the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) and the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK). Fighting has occurred mainly in the north-western areas of Anlong Veng and Preah Vihear, along the border with Thailand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. According to an official government statement, there have been approximately 3,000 defectors from NADK to the government side to date.

5. At the same time, efforts have taken place to arrive at a political settlement. The First Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, met twice with Mr. Khieu Samphan, the head of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK), to discuss the issue of integration of NADK into the mainstream political establishment. The first meeting took place on mid-December 1993 in Bangkok, Thailand, where Prince Ranariddh presented to Mr. Khieu Samphan a three-point

proposal for a political settlement in return for a cease-fire, withdrawal of NADK forces from NADK-held territory and integration of the NADK armed forces into RCAF. Prince Ranariddh has stated that the Government would consider amending the Constitution to include the leaders of NADK in the Government if NADK agreed to abide by the conditions laid down. A second meeting was held in Thailand in early January 1994. The Government feels strongly that NADK will have to agree to a cease-fire before serious discussions can take place, while NADK has stated that it will continue fighting until a suitable framework for political participation is established.

6. Allegations that NADK was receiving support from Thai territory caused concern during the reporting period. In mid-January, the Prime Minister of Thailand, Mr. Chuan Leekpai, visited Cambodia and both Governments affirmed on that occasion their determination to strengthen bilateral ties based on mutual benefit and respect for their independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. They agreed to establish a joint commission for bilateral cooperation and a separate joint committee on the demarcation of international borders.

7. There have been incidents of violence against ethnic Vietnamese for which NADK is reported to have been responsible. The Government is in the process of formulating immigration laws that will pertain to the ethnic Vietnamese minority population in Cambodia.

8. The Military Liaison Team has followed the integration of factional forces into RCAF as a residual issue under the Paris Agreements. This process is under way at all levels of command, from the Ministry of Defence to units in the field. RCAF is putting emphasis on the training of officers and soldiers in the field. With effect from February 1994, a three- to six-month general staff course is proposed for high-ranking army officers. RCAF has reported that it has completed the restructuring of its forces and that the Ministry of Defence and General Staff have been restructured. Disciplinary problems have been reported in some units, which are mostly attributed to low morale resulting from non-payment of salaries and the lack of basic amenities and supplies. There has been a drive to eliminate previous factional identities through such efforts as the standardization of military uniforms. Defence cooperation and aid are being sought from other countries with a view to modernizing and enhancing the operational efficiency of RCAF.

9. Internal security in Cambodia has become more precarious following the withdrawal of the military component of UNTAC. The depressed state of the economy continues and the prolonged non-payment of salaries to civil servants, including soldiers of RCAF, and the widespread availability of weapons have aggravated the situation. Many illegal checkpoints are reported to have been set up throughout the countryside by RCAF soldiers and others, who extort money from travellers. A large number of thefts and armed robberies have been reported and banditry is widespread. Several vehicles and office equipment belonging to the Military Liaison Team have been stolen, often at gunpoint. However, government departments that are responsible for the maintenance of law and order are being strengthened and Cambodia has entered into bilateral agreements with other countries in support of these efforts.